

New Mission News

COMFORTING THE AFFLICTED AND AFFLICTING THE COMFORTABLE SINCE 1980 FEBRUARY 2002



Collage by Victor Navarrete

The Girls in the 'hood

Prostitution is the Mission's new growth industry

by Joe Donohoe

"A pimp steals a woman's mind."
American Pimp

On odd weekends 20th Street, between South Van Ness and Folsom, looks like a football tailgate party at three in the morning. Mini-trucks and SUVs cruise back and forth past the Shotwell Street barricades erected to halt such traffic, carrying men looking for prostitutes. Some of the vehicles blare rap and hip-hop music at full volume.

Meanwhile, sleepless residents make phone calls, try to avoid confrontations and hear the conversations of pimps outside their windows. Some of these residents are at their wits' end with frustration at what they see as the City's unresponsiveness.

"I've counted 300 cars in an hour, between midnight at one o'clock," said Jane Martin, one of the organizers of the Shotwell Street Neighborhood Association. Martin lives on the 300 block of Shotwell Street, an area similarly afflicted. Her association came together two years ago and was responsible for getting the police department to start putting up street barricades. "Before I moved to Shotwell Street I had no idea the problem was so bad. I didn't know people couldn't sleep at night," she said.

Residents complain about poor police response, cruising Johns and noise. This reporter has waited for half an

hour for police response while screaming women were abducted on his block, and he has also seen police efficiency when a pimp, terrorizing a woman and slapping her, was arrested by two officers.

At a public safety meeting held January 23rd at the Centro del Pueblo in the North Mission, about a hundred angry residents expressed frustration with the deteriorating situation centered at 16th and Mission. Besides prostitution, residents were concerned about drug dealing gangs, public health problems caused by a concentration of homeless people in the area, and strong-arm robberies.

The meeting, put together by Supervisor Chris Daly, featured representatives from a number of city agencies including the City Attorney and District Attorney's Office, the Department of Public Works, the Mayor's Office and the Police Department. The principals of Phoenix High School and Marshall Elementary School and School Board member Mark Sanchez also attended. The tone of the City officials was apologetic, defensive and often evasive, but occasionally blunt.

However, residents, including representatives of five neighborhood organizations, and business owners were just plain mad. Roger Herried, the manager of the Redstone Building at 16th and Capp, who was assaulted on 16th Street, described the unchecked crime and violence he has observed on the street. The principal of Marshall School complained about junkies and hookers hanging around his

kids and leaving needles in the bushes and in the playground, which is a favorite nightspot for shooting up.

When confronted with the drug, violence and prostitution situation, newly appointed Mission Station Police Captain Greg Corrales stated, "I've got 32 years' experience in vice and narcotics... I will get this neighborhood cleaned up in five months or I strongly urge you to get someone else." Corrales, to his credit, was the only one of the public servants present to promise that the situation would improve through his own efforts.

Who's responsible?

There is no shortage of points of view on prostitution. "There are two types of prostitutes working here," says Jane Martin. "Girls with pimps who come in from

Continued on page 4



Responding to public anger at the deteriorating situation at 16th and Mission, Captain Greg Corrales, newly appointed head of Mission Station, promised "If things don't improve you can run me out of town."

What price preservation?

Saving the New Mission Theater could cost City College \$30 million

by Victor Miller

In November 2001, 72% of the voters in the city and 84 % of the voters in the Mission approved a bond measure authorizing funding for construction of a new \$62 million Mission District campus of San Francisco City College; but the project which, in one form or another, has been on-again-off again for the last 25 years, may be sidetracked once again.

College officials continue to be at odds with those who want to include preservation of the New Mission Theater as part of the plans. The theater (with the exception of the stylish marquee) and the

adjacent Value Giant store on Mission between 21st and 22nd are slated to be demolished sometime in 2003 to make way for the City College expansion.

After more than a year of wrangling, there remains a multi-million dollar difference of opinion about the cost and feasibility of retaining the theater. Preservationists, organized as Save the New Mission Theater, contend those costs would be no more than what is now budgeted for demolition and new construction. City College officials maintain that incorporating the theater into their plans would add as much as \$30 million to the final price tag. Chancellor Philip

Continued on page 8

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GROCERY

The Daly Report

Supervisor Chris Daly



It has been over a year since I began shaking things up in the corridors of City Hall. Much has changed in The City and in my old haunt of 16th and Mission. The dot-com boomers are fewer and humbled. Thanks to the Mission Anti-displacement Coalition and some of our newly acquired political strength, land-use decisions are actually being made by the community (including an end to the live/work loft free-for-all).

But life on 16th Street has also gotten a little harsher. A new set of drug dealers police brass say are commuting from the East Bay has staked out turf in our neighborhood. They are younger and tougher than the previous folks in the game on 16th. They don't care at all about the Mission and, unfortunately, it seems as if violence is on the rise.

In the last few months, three friends of mine have had serious, violent encounters in the North Mission. Roger Herried, the manager of the Redstone Building, was brutally beaten when he tried to secure the front of that building. New College professor Christian Parenti was assaulted and even shot at after telling a speeding motorist to slow down. Rob Eshelmann, a legislative aide to Supervisor Matt Gonzalez and Mission resident, was held up on 16th Street by a robber wielding a machine gun. Rob offered his usual upbeat take on things – joking that the machine gun was a bit much, because a knife would have been sufficient to get him to hand over his wallet.

The North Mission has been tough for a long time. A real working-class neighborhood, it is a quintessential urban area with a mix of different cultures. This same diversity that we embrace sadly includes the intersection of some of society's tougher issues. We know heroin has been a serious problem on 16th Street for some time. But this new wave of violence accompanying the drug trade in our neighborhood is intolerable.

We have the right to live in a safe community, and we have the responsibility to make our neighborhood safer while we also address the root causes of social iniquities and addictions that plague us.

Last month, in a community meeting hosted by my office, several neighborhood associations from the North Mission got together with representatives from seven city departments, the school district and BART Police to address these quality of life issues. The meeting was an opportunity for the community groups working on these issues to join together.

The Minna Street Neighborhood Watch, the Shotwell Street Neighborhood Association, the 16th & Mission Public Safety Mini Task Force, the Redstone Tenants Association, and stakeholders from Marshall Elementary School were all able to present their major concerns and philosophies on how to address the issues of health, safety and quality of life. All agreed that we need to get beyond complaining about our problems and proactively organize to get our problems addressed. And the good news is that

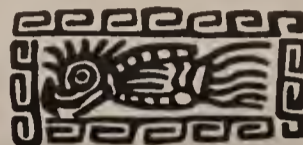
these groups have done lots of ground-work already.

Certainly, one other beacon for 16th Street is the soon-to-open Mission Neighborhood Resource Center. The product of several years of community organizing and dozens of community meetings, the Center will provide access to services and resources for many of our neighbors and will begin to address some of our quality of life issues. The Center will work to hook folks up with drug treatment and provide a refuge from the streets for the homeless.

There will be restroom, shower and locker facilities that can serve as a stop on the road to permanent housing. The Center will also be a community resource for groups organizing to make our neighborhood safer, while we address the root causes of the problems facing us.

In the coming months, my staff and I will be working on some innovative strategies to stem this new tide of violence in the Mission. And, in my position as Chair of the newly formed Health and Human Services Committee and Vice-chair of the Finance Committee, I will fight for the budget priorities of my constituency, namely drug treatment on demand, mental health care, and affordable housing.

Meanwhile, the communities of 16th and Mission must continue to join and organize neighborhood watches, attend, in increasing number, the monthly Police Department Community Forums, call 28-CLEAN for street sanitation issues and generally watch out for each other. While you do that, I'll continue shaking things up in the corridors of City Hall.



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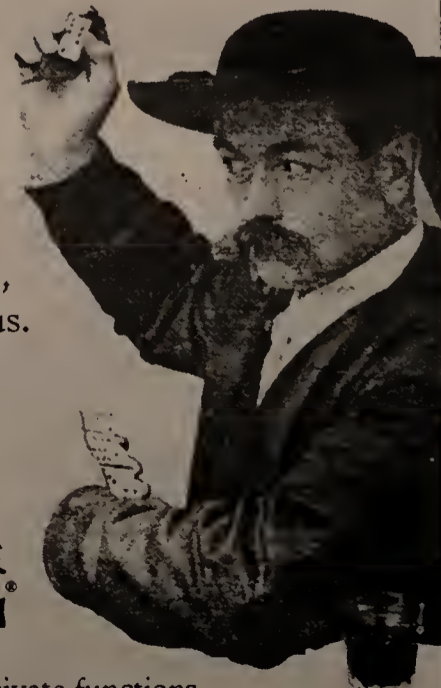
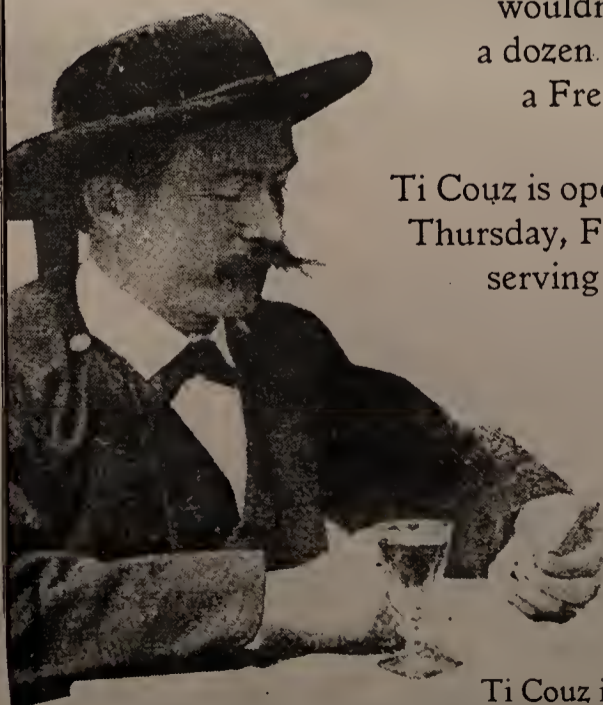
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Girls in the Hood

Richmond and East Bay, and local girls who don't have pimps and who are doing it to support their drug addictions. There are more underage girls in the Mission than in the Tenderloin, girls who are 13 years old."

"It varies, how many underage girls we get," Inspector Ed Del Carlo of San Francisco's Vice Division told New Mission News. "Between hookers and johns we make 50-60 arrests a month in the Mission. Juveniles take a lot more time to process. Last week we got six juveniles. Some weeks we won't get any. Their ages vary from about 14-17 years old, and they come from all over the place. They aren't locals, for the most part. Many of them are runaways. They come from East Bay, Oregon, wherever. The johns, I'd say about 60 per cent of them come from outside of the City, but that's not a hard statistic."

Inspector Del Carlo said that a lot of johns were netted through sting operations with female officers, but despite the arrests, prosecution is still up to the DA. Vice has no way of tracking of how many arrests end up in convictions.

"The DA is responsible for prosecuting these offenses," said Supervisor Tom Ammiano. "Everything can't be punitive, though. The City has advocacy programs for young women, job training, drug counseling. We're working really closely with the community on this problem and trying to find solutions."

Reg Smith, spokesperson for the DA's office, didn't have any hard statistics regarding prosecution of vice crimes, but talked instead of the DA's First Offender Prostitution Program created by Carolina Reyes Oak. "This program has won awards from universities and has become a model for the whole country. Part of it involves removing the supply side: the johns. They are forced to attend Saturday classes about the realities of prostitution. Our recidivism (re-arrest) rate for johns that have attended the program has been less than 3 percent."

"The current DA has been doing some good," admitted Jane Martin, "but they've been terrible with prosecution and obtaining convictions." While Norteño and Sureño gang violence has declined, the streets seem to be getting meaner due to a new wave of out-of-towners.

A rough business

On the morning of January 14th, the body of a woman who had an arrest record for prostitution was found on the corner of 18th and Alabama Streets. A suspect is in custody. The evening after the public safety meeting was cold and the Shotwell B- Girls were few, for a change. On the corner of 19th and South Van Ness, a shoestring-thin black girl ducked behind a parked Mustang as a police cruiser turned towards Mission. The same cruiser had stopped another girl for questioning on 20th Street minutes before. Later that evening, three squad cars surrounded a Cadillac on Shotwell at 19th. Was this part of Captain Corrales' promise to clean things up?

"If, as a liberal city, we want to accept sex as a business," says Ms. Martin, "then why is this allowed to be like this? I mean, these businessmen don't pay taxes. The City is not getting any cut out of this." Martin indicated that the police barriers on Shotwell were meant only as a temporary measure when they were implemented two years ago, but if they are removed the problem will only get worse. Often the pimps remove the barriers themselves, and Martin says she

Continued from Page 1

and her neighbors do not want to confront the pimps since she believes they are often armed.

"I like the money"

Mandy (not her street name or her real name) is a 20-year old African-American woman who has been working as a street-walker for four years. Previous employment included babysitting and work at JC Penny's. She's lived in Richmond all her life, but recently moved to Vallejo.

"What I like about this is the money," she says. "It's very good money and I like the way I'm treated. I get anything I want. I work almost every day in the City. Well, I get two days off. I drive over. What I don't like is other pimps bothering me, and the cops."

The New Mission News asked if she liked her pimp.

"Oh yeah. I've known him for five years. I met him through his little brother. We went to school together... the little brother, that is."

Does she ever find her work dangerous?

"Yeah, yesterday a customer didn't pay. He pushed me out of his car after driving me way out of the way to his moth-

er's house. Most of the time, though, it's very fun. Other girls like it, too."

What doesn't she like about the other pimps?

"Well, other pimps will see us on the street and act smart, say smart things, but you just ignore them to stay 'out of the pocket'."

"Out of the pocket" means that a "ho" is only supposed to look at her pimp and nobody else. If she looks at another pimp, he'll grab her and make her his. Of her co-workers, Mandy had this to say: "They're stupid, some of them are. If they be cool they on my level. I like the girls from Oakland."

Does she have any future plans?

"Well, I only want to do this for two more years. I've got some plans, nothin' solid. I'd like to travel around the world.

I've got money. I've been half way around already. Vegas, Miami, Phoenix."

As I write this, the night traffic begins again outside my window. Raucous shouts (within the hearing of families with children) compete with and finally overpower the sounds of the bar next door. A bottle breaks when it is thrown into the street. Tonight somebody will pee in the alcove leading into the

trash room, and the night ladies will strut down the street, dodging between parked cars as motorists slow down, stop, and the ladies hop in. It's a typical weekend.



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Resource Center represents a different response to quality of life issues

Facility for assisting the North Mission's street people set to open in May

by Susan Batchelder

For nearly two decades the 16th Street corridor has been the site of one of the city's greatest concentrations of homeless and near homeless individuals, drug dealers, and prostitutes. A three-year effort to deal with the public safety and quality of life issues that have plagued the area will culminate this spring with the opening of the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center (MNRC) in May.

Located at 165 Capp Street between 16th and 17th, this will be neither a shelter nor a soup kitchen. The Mission Neighborhood Resource Center will provide homeless people a secure haven away from the fears and hardships of the street. Laura Carcagno Guzman, the Project Director, explains, "One of the main goals is to offer a safe space to the homeless population."

People will be able to take care of their individual needs and utilize all of the services offered. She stresses that community members, tired of disposing of human waste and used needles, have voiced a need for such a facility. The MNRC is collaborating with the Mission Neighborhood Health Center and other community nonprofits in order to offer essential services for the homeless, while addressing the concerns of the entire community.

In 1999 a group of residents, merchants, and neighborhood organizations sought out the San Francisco Department of Human Services, the Department of Public Health, and Mayor Brown's office to do something about deteriorating living conditions in the North Mission Neighborhood. There are various philosophies on how to tackle homelessness, from police sweeps to homeless shelters. The Mission Neighborhood Resource Center's goal is to improve the situation without an over-reliance on police intervention.

Getting people to address their basic needs and to take advantage of opportunities is one way of veering them away from prostitution and drug dealing as a means of survival. The Center will offer stability and also show the homeless, in tangible terms, that people do care. Compassion will be an integral part of the solution.

The MNRC plans to hire homeless and formerly homeless individuals to

serve as hosts. Guzman emphasizes, "We have a strong belief in the peer model." These "peer facilitators" will be gaining economic stability for themselves and serving as role models for the people that they greet and introduce to services. The host will show an individual the first floor of the Center, which will house bathrooms, lockers, laundry facilities, showers, and voice mail.

These basic amenities offer a solution to the quality of life crimes that have blighted the North Mission. People will have a place to put their belongings to avoid losing them on the streets. Access to phones allows people a chance to gain and keep employment. The idea is to offer solutions to individuals' immediate needs, a first step in the process of reducing homelessness.

On-site services on the second floor will include substance abuse counseling, mental health counseling, acupuncture, crisis management, leadership and skill building training, and comprehensive information and referral. The Mission Neighborhood Health Center, Hogares Sin Barreras-Coalition on Homelessness, Mission SRO Collaborative, Mission Council on Alcohol Abuse for the Spanish Speaking, Inc., Mission Mental Health, and Quan Yin Healing Arts Center will provide on-site professionals six days a week. The MNRC will also be able to connect individuals with outside service providers specializing in employment or affordable housing.

As the project gains momentum, the facilities and the services offered will be enhanced. Guzman says, "The hope is that the basic skeleton will be increased." The Center is currently waiting for federal funding to establish a full health and dental clinic, and eventually a computer center will be installed.

Improvements and additions will be determined by community feedback and the Community Advisory Board, which will consist of Mission residents and merchants, people directly affected by homelessness, and experts in relevant issues. Advisory Board applications are currently under review.

Guzman is presently the organization's sole full-time employee. By May, she will head a staff of eight and, hopefully, a multitude of volunteers. Carla Wilson of the Quan Yin Healing Arts Center calls volunteers "the connecting tissue" of the Mission Neighborhood



Laura Carcagno Guzman is the project director for the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center scheduled to open in May.

Resource Center. There are innumerable opportunities to get involved, whether working directly with clients, offering administrative support, or donating time and resources.

If you would like more information

about the Mission Neighborhood Resource Center, please contact Laura Carcagno Guzman, Project Director, at (415) 552-1013 x 216 or via e-mail at lauraguzman@mnhc.org.

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Guest Opinion

RANDY SHAW

Vote yes on Proposition D

Proposition D on the March 2002 ballot would change the way members of the Planning Commission and Board of Permit Appeals are appointed and removed. Prop D offers San Franciscans their best chance to gain control over the key land use decisions that determine who will be living in the City and particularly in the Mission neighborhood.

Placed on the ballot by nine Supervisors, Proposition D would give the Board three appointments to the seven-person Planning Commission and two appointments to the five-person Board of Permit Appeals, which oversees and often overturns decisions of the Planning Commission. Proposition D would also require that any removals from these two key planning bodies could only be made for official misconduct, not because the Mayor decides to do so for any reason, as is currently the case.

Downtown and landlord interests have attacked Prop D as a simple power grab by the Board of Supervisors and a continuation of the district-elected Supervisors desire to “get” Mayor Brown. But the mayor retains the majority of appointments to each body, thus undermining such attacks.

The truth is that Proposition D is long overdue. For over two decades, San Francisco’s Planning Commission and Board of Appeals have been dominated by the real estate industry. There has not been a member of the Appeals Board with any connection to tenant groups in over ten years. Individuals appearing before such bodies confront many commissioners who are unconcerned with the City’s housing crisis and are openly opposed to City laws designed to protect tenants or affordable housing.

The composition of these two bodies has not reflected the electorate’s policies as manifested in supervisorial or mayoral elections, or in the results of local ballot measures. Simply put, for over two decades San Francisco has allowed an unrepresentative fraction of its population to decide housing and land use policies. Prop D will finally ensure the diversity of viewpoints that the City deserves.

I was recently involved in a long-running case at the Board of Appeals regarding a residential hotel at 144 Eddy Street

in the Tenderloin. Although the hotel once had the right to rent to tourists under the Residential Hotel Ordinance, it had been kept vacant for the past twenty years and hence abandoned its tourist use under the area’s zoning. Since the Planning Code states that a nonconforming use is abandoned after three years, the twenty years in which no tourists stayed at the hotel would seem to make the case a no-brainer. Yet not with this Board of Appeals.

Despite the strong arguments made by the City zoning administrator and by tenants and community groups, the Board was largely sympathetic to the landlord when the case was heard on October 24, 2001.

One commissioner praised the landlord for investing in the Tenderloin, essentially arguing that converting residential housing to tourist use was good for the community. Another stated that it would be unfair to prevent the owner from effectively engaging in a “do it yourself” rezoning of his property since he had nicely renovated the hotel. These Commissioners were unconcerned about the City’s housing shortage, and saw a longtime slumlord who kept his property vacant for 20 years as a hero for finally fixing it up.

Although the Board ultimately ruled in our favor on January ninth, the owners had been allowed to continue their illegal tourist operation for six months following the initial hearing date. Only a massive turnout of SRO residents at each of the many hearings prevented the City’s loss of 88 desperately needed residential hotel rooms.

The case clearly demonstrated that there is something terribly wrong when our laws can be ignored and violated by an unrepresentative group of mayoral appointees—Prop D will ensure that similar fiascos do not recur.

Be sure to vote yes on Prop. D on March 5.
Randy Shaw is the director of Housing America/Tenderloin Housing Clinic



Guest Opinion

RICHARD MARQUEZ

Adachi for Public Defender

When most people think of criminal justice, they often imagine hyped-up, hypnotic televised cop and robber shows like *America’s Most Wanted*, or they think of the District Attorney, the Police Department or ultimately, confinement in City jails. However, this time in our City, we got the chance to change the channel, or mix it up, and take a long look at what is at stake in the March 5th Public Defender’s race.

This electoral struggle (which is up for challenge for the first time in 22 years) will remind us that the PD plays a pivotal role in the real-life drama of poor and working peoples’ lives each and every day. In these times of war, of a faltering economy, of the scapegoating of powerless and vulnerable segments in our communities, and of a diminishing social welfare net, fighting for fairness and protecting civil liberties seems all but lost to everyday people. It is now, not later, that everybody – no matter who we are, or where we come from, or how we live our lives – deserves the best defense that money can’t buy.

Jeff Adachi worked in the San Francisco Public Defender’s office for fifteen years, struggling up the ranks since 1986, and established himself as one of the City’s top trial lawyers. His defense, as a public defender, of thousands of poor, working and diverse people in our City, earned him the respect of his peers and of the communities his clients came from.

He rose to second-in-command, and was placed in charge of managing the office’s 90 lawyers and 30 staff members who represent over 15,000 people each year. Jeff initiated a number of progressive programs like Operation Clean Slate, which helped clients who had rehabilitated themselves clear their criminal records so they could become productive members of our City.

Another program Jeff started was a delinquency prevention project to empower youth caught in the juvenile justice system and help them return to school with special services like counseling, educational attainment and employability goals. Understanding that San Francisco needs long-term solutions to solve problems such as homelessness and affordable housing,

Jeff helped implement community

courts and re-designed a plan for a re-entry court to assist homeless offenders re-entering society, with linkages to housing and social supports. Indeed, in the past year, he has stood up for Idriss Stelley, a mentally ill man shot to death by San Francisco police. He has spoken out against hate crimes directed at Arab-Americans and the LGBT community.

Yet, with all these accomplishments, prodigious litigation experience and widespread, diverse community support, he was fired by Mayor Willie Brown’s appointee and goddaughter, Kimiko Burton, on the first day she took office. Now, you tell me, is this madness?

Jeff is up against big business, and a big mean machine which has amassed a king’s ransom of \$700,000 in campaign funds – to run for an office that supposedly serves poor and working people! He’s a true people’s defender vs. a public pretender, in a race that pits the Machine against the future of the progressive movement in San Francisco, a movement that speaks the truth and expands democratic participation, shaped by the generational struggles of immigrants, tenants, women, LGBT, labor and communities of color. On March 5th, vote Jeff Adachi for Public Defender!

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The Boiling Pot

Within the United States people take pride in their cultural differences. People share a common language and citizenship but no one expects Blacks, Whites, Indians and Asians to think of themselves as one people.

So why is everyone is so surprised that Latin Americans do not lump together overnight? Latino is neither a race, culture, nor religion. There exist Black, Indian, Arab, Caucasian, Jewish and Asian Latinos. In fact, the wave of emigrants that initially arrived to the United States migrated to Latin America pretty much at the same time and for the same reasons they sought refuge in North America. The United States is still not much of a melting pot, but Latin America (including the Latino community in this country) is truly a boiling pot.

For instance, large numbers of Italians migrated to Argentina and Brazil, yet the people from the land of the Tango do not even speak the same language as those from the nation that gave us the Samba. Even when there is a common language and persons are of the same race, their music, food, folklore, history, climate, and accents are worlds apart. A Black Peruvian has only the Spanish language in common with a Black Puerto Rican. Never mind that Hollywood takes a Cuban, places on him a sombrero, and he passes for Mexican. That's Hollywood.

In actuality, as with most small neighboring nations, in South America rivalries abound from nation to nation. Most borders share a history of recent warfare and, just as the French look down on the Italians, the Italians on the Spanish, the Spanish on the Greeks and all are sneered at by the British, the Chileans

Editor,

I'm responding to a landlord's (property owner's) cry of lament and self pity as she complains of big down payments, maintenance costs, and the taxes for the tenants who occupy her building. Sure, landlords do pay these costs but the rent helps her pay her mortgage. She also gets many tax deductions as an owner and can take write-offs for repairs.

The thing she does not reveal is that one day she will sell this building (or give it to her heirs) and some mighty pretty capital gains will be in her hot little

Commentary

Paula Tejeda

look down on the Peruvians, the Peruvians on the Bolivians and all are sneered at by the Argentines. Snobbery knows no bounds.

In the United States, Latinos or Hispanics (whatever) are encouraged to come together for economic and political reasons; however, Latino unity is exceptionally challenged due to its inherent diversity. Consider the following: Catholicism is Latin America's predominant religion; still Santeria, whose origin is in Africa, is the form of spirituality practiced by many Latin Americans. The Virgin of Guadalupe is not considered a Catholic virgin, but instead is the virgin of the indigenous people of Mexico.

The ideological divide is yet another factor that fiercely disunites Latinos. Notably, in Nicaragua the Somozistas have an aversion to the Sandinistas and vice versa; among Cubans there is the pro or anti-Castro enmity, and the Pinochet dictatorship continues to disunite Chileans.

Reconciliation is slowly dawning on these torn pueblos, yet, when we consider that after 500 years Latin America is still rewriting its history books with regard to the Spanish Conquest, we see how much the past continues to dominate and divide the present.

As if this were not enough, first and second generation Latinos born in the United States own up to their identity. In New York City, Puerto Ricans identify as Nuyorican and in California exists the Cholo and Chicano movement. Conclusion: "Juntos pero no revueltos."

Letter to the Editor

hands! Why does a person own property if not to make some profit in the end? So let's not be fooled by these tears of self-righteousness.

M. Harburg

gifted. jennifer jason leigh



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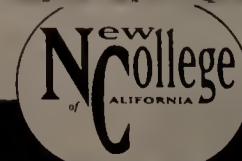
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City College

Continued from page 1

Day of City College has given preservationists a mid-February deadline to come up with an affordable alternative.

At the January meeting of the Mission Merchants Association, Day said the cost would be at least \$13 to \$21million more for any of the various proposals that had been reviewed in the last year. "And none of those would give you a real theater; it would just be an architectural museum," Day said. He also left open the possibility of City College simply finding another location, such as the property they now lease from the SF Unified School District at 22nd and Bartlett. This could delay construction for years and leave the New Mission Theater as a discount furniture outlet for decades to come, not a win for anybody.

An eight story campus

Frank Fung, an architect and former member of the City Planning Commission who is the City College project director for the new campus, said one option (referred to as Scheme 4) currently being discussed did include a fully restored, free-standing theater with a mid-rise eight story campus building next to it. "The cost of this would be an additional \$30 million," Fung told the *New Mission News*.

He said that City College has met with preservationists over a dozen times and developed nine alternative schemes

that preserve, to one degree or another, the "historic" architecture but do not involve the New Mission being used as a theater. "Talk about a working theater takes us back to square one," he said. Will Shank of Save the New Mission Theater saw Scheme 4 "as the only one that is an appropriate preservation plan... it is closer to what we want" but referred to it nevertheless as only "a beginning." Shank said he was unaware of Day's deadline.

Alice Carey, an architect specializing in historic restoration who works with the Save the New Mission Theater group, questioned the validity of the alternatives City College has developed. "They have deliberately developed these schemes to be expensive," Carey said. Fung pointed out that he is currently working with two professional cost estimators, including one of the biggest and most reputable in the field, David Langdon Adamson.

Carey claimed that what she had seen so far was insubstantial, calling the proposals put forward by City College "less than a napkin sketch." If so, it's an expensive napkin sketch that has so far cost City College about \$100,000, according to Fung.

Carey argues that placing parking off-site could save millions, but Day counters that purchasing a site and constructing a parking structure could cost millions. Carey admits that her group lacks the resources to bring in the type of expertise that would provide what she called "real" figures. Shank stressed that Save the New Mission Theater had only a



A sign of previous times or things to come?

small grant from the National Registry and was all volunteers. "We're doing this because it has to be done," he said.

An independent audit

Supervisor Tom Ammiano, who said he was "pleased at the progress that had been made so far," offered the possibility of the City funding an independent audit of the various proposals. This would at least clear the air about what is or is not economically possible. If the preservation costs are as high as Fung and Day say they are, the theater and college are not compatible. Neither a cash-strapped city or state government is likely to come up with the additional funding, nor are the voters likely to approve such a huge public expenditure for a project so totally unrelated to City College's educational mission. Shank said he welcomed

Ammiano's suggestion for an independent audit but refused to comment on what his group would do if the audit confirmed City College's figures. "That's just not going to happen, so I'm not even going to go there."

Other woes

Beyond the numbers game there are other unresolved issues:

* Scheme 4, the closest the two sides have come to an agreement, keeps the theater but eliminates the daycare center which is an essential component of a community college serving a large percentage of single parents.

* Last year the preservationists, while still negotiating with the college, succeeded in getting the New Mission Theater put on the National Register of Historic Places. This means demolition of the theater will require another extensive environmental impact report. It could also open the door for another lawsuit over historic issues, such as the one filed three years ago by the Cort family that City College won only after much time and expense.

* To begin construction, City College must still await approval of a state educational bond issue that goes before the voters in November.

In spite their differences, Shank felt Save the New Mission Theater could still work in "an honest effort with City College to reduce cost." Fung was less optimistic: "It is clear that what is best for City College and its students is at polar ends of what preservationists want." Shouldering some of the burden for reconciling the two sides, Ammiano said, "I've got a lot of candles to light."

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Francesca Sanchez a 24-year resident of 2389 Folsom wants to see conditions in the building improved.

Folsom Street tenants stonewalled on repairs and rat removal

by Jill Winkelstein

Is it too much to ask to live in a building free of rats, cockroaches and the need for major repairs? The tenants of 2389 Folsom Street don't think so. Those who live in the building are mostly Latino and non-native English speakers, and have been trying for months to get their landlords – Maureen and John O'Neil – to respond to their repair and maintenance requests. The landlords' failure to respond to these requests has left the building in disrepair, and tenants who live there, especially those with small children, are fed up.

The first thing the tenants did was to send a letter to their landlords, letting them know what was wrong with the building and asking them to fix it. The letter contained a list of necessary repairs and maintenance items that needed to be addressed, as well as their complaints about the landlords' new requirement that tenants pay their rent before 4:00 pm on the first of each month.

This can be very difficult when the first of the month falls on a weekend, or when the person responsible for paying the rent is working on that day). The original contract had allowed a five-day grace period, and tenants are charged a \$50 late fee if they are late with their rent.

The landlords did not respond to this letter, so the tenants at 2389 Folsom Street (in conjunction with St. Peter's Housing Committee) took the power of the media into their own hands and decided to hold a press conference just outside their building. Judging by its outside appearance, you wouldn't guess the modest tan building with an iron gate needs extensive repairs inside.

But the report filed by the Department of Building Inspection reveals that the building is riddled with maintenance problems. The three-page report, filed on November 27th, 2001 cites numerous violations including damaged stairwells, ceilings and walls, improper ventilation in laundry rooms, and rodent infestation.

A press conference was held on January 15th, and a group of around 100 people (tenants and their supporters) gathered just outside of 2389 Folsom. Tenants took turns telling about their experiences living at the building.

Juan Garcia, who lives there with his wife and two children, told a story about the landlord coming to make last-minute repairs when he got word of the press conference. He opened a hole in the bathroom wall and a three-pound rat fell out. "Rats are not something kids should have as pets," stated Garcia.

Many tenants don't have favorable

things to say about landlord John O'Neil. Tenants like Olga Solorio feel harassed and say that he often comes into apartments unannounced, violating California Civil Code Section 1954 which states that tenants must be provided with 24 hours' written notice before landlords may enter their units. Olga says, "He showed up here on Saturday knocking on doors. I was on my way out with my baby stroller, and he still forced his way into my apartment and took a grill from the stove that didn't work. He continued to yell at me as I left the apartment."

Certainly 2389 Folsom is not the only building in the Mission that has repair and maintenance needs which landlords have ignored. The tenants feel that by banding together as a community they are helping each other and inspiring others to take action.

The language barrier between the tenants and the landlord has not made this fight any easier. The tenants claim Margaret O'Neil denied their requests for a meeting because the tenants don't speak English. The tenants feel this is no excuse, as they have partnered with St. Peter's Housing Committee to help them make their case for decent housing in Spanish and English. Guadalupe Arreola, an organizer with the St. Peter's Housing Committee, said, "These people are really amazing; they have made all of this happen by coming together and uniting to get their voices heard."

The O'Neils did not return phone calls from *New Mission News*.

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CARNAVAL COUNTDOWN



MONICA CONRADI

With the icy-cold nights and frosty mornings we've been having lately, it's hard to imagine parading down Mission Street wearing feathers, sequins and itsy-bitsy costumes. But not if you're an old Carnival hand, you start thinking Carnival just as soon as the holiday decorations have been taken down and the New Year has been heralded in.

We need Carnival. The city needs Carnival. If ever there was an event that brings our multicultural, diverse citizenry together for a day of music, dance and general frivolity, this is it!

The big news this year is that Carnival SF 2002 is under new management. Mission Neighborhood Centers, Inc., has taken the reins from MECA (Mission Economic Cultural Association). MECA has closed up shop. With an infusion of new energy and ideas, we can all hope for a better and brighter Carnival future. Elizabeth Soberanes, a long-time Carnival participant, is the Artistic Liaison person; Roberto Hernandez, a familiar figure from the good old days of Carnival, is the Parade Coordinator.

The first major change is that Carnival is reverting back to being a two-day event. Last year it was just one day, with the Grand Parade on Mission Street followed by a Festival in Civic Center. This year, Sunday is still the parade day but there will be a street fair on both Saturday and Sunday at the previous stomping ground, Harrison Street.

This is good news for the parade participants, who last year were expected to dance all the way from 24th Street to the Civic Center — very tough on the feet! Not that they all went to Civic Center: several groups held their own post-Parade parties, while many others headed over to Franklin Square Park for a "Hell, No—We Won't Go (to Civic Center)" bash. Also, the word was that when the last contingent—a major Caribbean group—arrived at the judges' stand, all but one of the judges had left! But I digress.

The festivities will take place, as usual, on Memorial Day weekend, Saturday and Sunday, May 25 and 26. The Grand Parade on Sunday will commence at 11 a.m. at Bryant and 24th Streets, proceed to Mission, wend its way to 17th, turn and head for Harrison and the festival area. The street fair will be from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday on Harrison between 17th and 21st Streets. There will be music, food, arts, crafts, entertainment, children's events and more—enough to keep everyone happy.

As befits this new era of Carnival, the official theme is, "New Life/Nueva Vida." Contingent leaders can either base their group's theme on the official one or come up with their own. You can be sure there'll be some wild and wonderful shows on the road no matter what they do. Last year, the Brazilian dance group *Aquarela* had one of the most innovative themes around. Imagine a moving nightclub, complete with a bar, waitresses with ice-cube headresses and

scantly clad showgirls coming down Mission Street, and you've got the picture.

The Parade is limited to 40 contingents. The application deadline is Friday, March 1. A contingent assistance fund has been set up to provide grants for qualified contingents plus monetary prize awards. This is good news for all the long-time parade groups who have received no financial assistance over the years.

The Carnival King and Queen contest will take place sometime in April. This is always a great event. If you fancy being a royal personage for a day, now is your chance! Applications and information will be available on February 15. For details, call the Carnival Hotline at (415) 920-0125.

Another great Bay Area tradition, the Ethnic Dance Festival, is holding its annual auditions as we go to press. Several Carnival groups are auditioning this year and we wish them luck. The actual festival is held in June—I'll have more on this in a future column.

During the weeks before Carnival, part of the fun is the fundraisers and dance parties put on by the various groups. The season kicks off in the first weekend of March with a fundraiser in the form of a Cuban Rumba party on Sunday, March 3 at the ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street. This is a benefit for a group consisting of Escuela de Rueda, the Mission Cultural Center and various local schools. For information, call (415) 863-9834. On Saturday, March 2, the dynamic Caribbean group *D'Midas International* will be at the Santa Clara Hilton. Leave a message on the Carnival Hotline for more information on this event.

That's all for this month. Watch this space in the next three issues for all your Carnival news. Ciao until March.

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1 FRIDAY

Erotic opening – The 3rd Annual Backroom Erotic Art Show will have juicy stuff from more than a dozen SF artists including the much-talked-about pussy boxes of Beth McCoy. City Art Gallery, 828 Valencia, 7 pm, free. 970-9900

2 SATURDAY

If he only had a cerebro – El Espantapájaros (The Scarecrow) spins some funny Spanish language tales for kids. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett, noon, free. 695-5090

Throwing in the tile – The public is invited to help create 12' by 12" tiles of

Jazz double feature – The Vijay Iyer Quartet performs cutting edge jazz, featuring music from their new album, *Panoptic Modes*. ODC Theater, 17th and Shotwell, 8 & 10:30 pm, \$15-20. 863-8934 or www.odctheater.org

Standup queerly – *Queer as Funk* showcases the comedic talents of Karen Ripley, Sonia Whittle, Karen Ladson, Lucky 7 and Deep Dickollective. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission, 8 pm, \$5-10. 554-0402

3 SUNDAY

String fingering foursome – The Bella Cusi String Quartet performs the works of Pavel Hass and Shostakovich. Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street, 3 pm, free. 647-6015

The real JSB – Bach's *Suites 4, 5 & 6 for Solo Cello* are performed by Monica Scott on the instrument for which they

were written, a Baroque cello with gut strings, without endpin and played with a convex bow. St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3281 16th Street, 3 pm, \$7-12. 863-6811

4 MONDAY

Charlie's peculiar angels – Members of Charlie Varon's Performance Workshop are unleashed on the public. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, 8 pm, \$7. 826-5750

5 TUESDAY

Rhyme and reason – Paula Farkas leads the Bardic Roundtable discussion of the imagery, archetypes and theories of Julia Kristeva. Bird and Beckett Books, 2788 Diamond, 7:30 pm, free. 586-3733

Eclectic cools – Miya Masaoka, one of the best as well as one of the few jazz koto players, lays down some licks. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 8 pm, \$12-15. 626-3311

6 WEDNESDAY

Pay(off) dirt – The Ethics Commission presents a workshop on the use of its Campaign Finance Database. Find out who paid what for your favorite public official. City Hall, Room 416, 1 pm to

4 pm, free. Space is limited, so call 581-2300 to reserve a spot.

How do you play the 9/11 conundrums? – Creative folk Rhodessa Jones, Don Bajema and Sara Shelton Mann are the panelists for this discussion of how art and the artist have been changed by September's paradigm-shifty day. The LAB, 2948 16th Street, 7 pm, \$5-7. 864-8855

Alexandra blooms – Art, the good kind, happens at this reception for Reify, an exhibition of recent monoprints by the charming Alexandra Blum. ATA Gallery, 992 Valencia, 7-10 pm, free. Show runs 2/1-28. 824-3890

Wide open urban spaces – This public meeting is your last chance get your two cents in on a proposed \$2.6 million cut in the Recreation and Parks budget. Chinese Rec Center 1199 Mason, 6pm, free. 621-3260

7 THURSDAY

Silent mover – Momo Casablanca does the mime thing. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett, 4 pm, free. 695-5090

El cartoon dude – Lalo Alcaraz gives a reading and slide show of his very witty work, and sticks around to sign copies of *2002 Cartoonista Calendar* and *Latino USA: A Cartoon History*. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

Who're you callin' homo? – Another wine-and-cheese op for all you freeloaders at the opening reception for *Sapiens*, a mixed media exhibition celebrating the spirituality, sexuality, socialization and psyche of all us human critters. Crucible Steel Gallery, 2050 Bryant Street, 5:30 – 9 pm, free. Show runs through 2/27. 751-9410

8 FRIDAY

The gospel according to Paul – In another wide-ranging and guaranteed-to-be-hilarious one-man show- "The Devil In Me" -*Realist* editor and co-founder of the Yippies Paul Krassner delivers the satirical goods. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, 8 pm, \$15. 826-5750

The Other Brother: The Disabled Ebonics Tour – Poet/activists Leroy Franklin Moore Jr. and Samuel Irving bring their spoken word campaign for the Black disabled community, expressed through poetry, storytelling and lectures, to San Francisco. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

9 SATURDAY

The 411 on post-911 – Public discussion of the attacks on civil liberties in the wake of September 11. New Valencia Hall, 1908 Mission Street, jambalaya dinner at 6:30 (\$8.50), discussion at 7:30 (\$2). 864-1278

The gospel according to Paul – see 2/8

Fowl ball – The opening reception for "God Said No: The Fall from the Garden of Eden," Tom Fowler's new Biblically-themed mixed media artwork, features refreshments, meaningless and trite conversation and music from several bands including Fowler's own *Tastes Like Chicken*. Live Art Studios, 151 Potrero, 7 pm to midnight, free. Show runs 2/9-28. 621-5343 or tomdraws@yahoo.com

Spice is nice – "Bahian Spice" is the theme of the 33rd annual Friends of Brazil Carnival Ball, featuring the SensaSamba Big Band from Brazil and the dancers of Aquarela. Galleria Design Center, 101 Henry Adams Street, 8 pm-2 am, advance tickets required through www.acteva.com or 334-0106. 21 and over.

Continued on page 12

burger joint

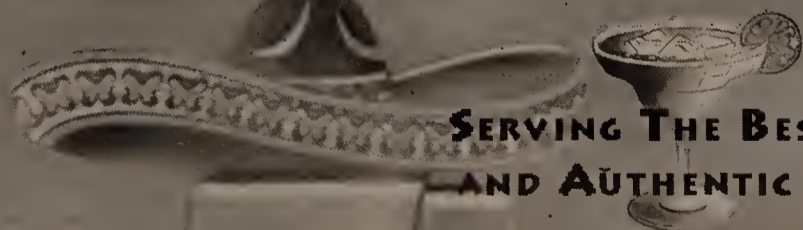
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WEEKEND
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11AM-2PM
SATURDAY
AND SUNDAY

10 SUNDAY

The mellow cello – Late 20th century work for cello, cello and piano and cello and violin performed by some classy folks. Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street, 4 pm, free. 647-6015

Love barks and hisses – The SPCA Valentine Adoption Fair focuses on small animals such as rabbits, rats, reptiles and birds, and includes a "Tunnel of Love" featuring animal rescue groups, a "Singles Bar" with baked goods and coffee, a "Kissing Booth" where you and your adopted pet can be photographed, and other steamy stuff. SPCA, 243 Alabama Street, 11 am – 3 pm, free. 552-3569

Is there a zip codice? – The Mexican Museum displays pre-Columbian Mexican codices and holds a bookmaking workshop for kids aged 5 and up. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett, 1 pm, free. 695-5090

11 MONDAY

For night owls – The Monday Night Hoot, hosted by Eric Shea, features S.F.'s best and brightest musicians performing acoustically. Cafe Du Nord, 2170 Market Street, 9 pm, \$5. 861-5016

12 TUESDAY

The people's plan for the land – This is the first in a series of public forums on the future of the Mission's Northeast Industrial Zone, intended to alter local zoning laws. ODC Theater, 17th and Shotwell, 6 pm. 431-4210

And that would be who? – Everyone's welcome to read from the works of authors born in February, but please, not the Gettysburg Address. Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 2788 Diamond, 7:30 pm, free. 586-3733

Believe it or not – "What Do You Believe?" is the fourth in a series of audience-artist/performer interactive events structured around basic questions. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 8 pm, pay whatever you can. 626-2787

An eyeful – Some of the 20 authors and photographers of *The Whole World is Watching*, a history of the social upheavals of the 60s and 70s, give a reading and slideshow presentation. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

13 WEDNESDAY

Eastern exposure – Editor Danielle Jatlow and contributors to *Watchword*, a journal of emerging American writers and East European writers in translation, read from the just-released publication. Adobe Books, 3166 16th Street, 7:30 pm, free. 864-3936

14 THURSDAY

Resurfacing yourself – Rainbow Grocery Co-op presents a free skin DermaView health screening and consultation session which will include problems of dry skin, scar tissue, sun damage, oily skin, blocked pores and more. Rainbow Grocery, 1745 Folsom Street, 11 am – 1 pm. Call 863-0620 for an appointment.

Lying sacks of toxic sludge – John Stauber (co-author of *Toxic Sludge is Good for You*) discusses his new book, (written with Sheldon Rampton) *Trust Us, We're Experts*, an expose of how corporations and PR firms purchase and manipulate the testimony of doctors, professors and other experts to sell products. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

Live and recorded v-day sounds – Dj Mei-Lwun Yee and vocalist Gina Renc collaborate for some futuristic electronic soul. Plus Dj Sep. 26 Mix, 3024 Mission, 10 pm, \$5, 21 and over. 826-7378

The drum-meister – Jazz drummer Eddie Marshall, who's played with the best, conducts a workshop on drumming performance and technique. 116 9th Street, 8 pm, \$10, free for members of Musician's Union Local 6. 575-0777

15 FRIDAY

Hello! What's this? – *Andrognykka! The Hello Tour!* is the cabaret told story of Andrognykka's national tour to save the Eastern European country of Chetkrupohrthkrthsrthkrthtusk. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission, 8 pm, \$5-10. 554-0402

16 SATURDAY

Private dick flick – In *Butter and Pinches Return*, two edgy lesbian detectives try to recover the stolen time-freezing formula of Dr. Edmund Parsley. Hilarity ensues in 20 Bay Area locations. Victoria Theater, 2961 16th Street, 8 pm, \$5. www.butterandpinches.com

17 SUNDAY

Bike the underground – A slow paced 22-mile bike tour follows the path of long buried creeks and contemporary sewer facilities provides some scenic and historic views of the city. Meet up at Precita and Folsom at 10am for the six hour ride. 431-BIKE

The Swinkins rock (so to speak) – Rachel Swinkin (flute) and Jeffrey Swinkin (piano) perform works by Beethoven, Schubert, Telemann and Prokofiev. Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street, 4 pm, free. 647-6015

Murderville must go – Members of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade and School for the Americas Watch discuss ways to shut down the School for the Americas, a torture and assassination training center in Georgia. Bird and Beckett Books and Records, 2788 Diamond Street, 7:30 pm, free. 586-3733

19 TUESDAY

Street smarts – Luis Rodriguez discusses his new book, *Hearts and Hands*, which puts forward some nonviolent proposals for dealing with the world of gang vio-

lence which Rodriguez depicted so vividly in his autobiographical *Always Running*. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

A world of hurt – Mike Davis (author of *City of Quartz*) and social historian David Reid converse about the globalization of fear, socialism and California culture. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, 8 pm, \$5-15. 626-2787 (Mike Davis writing workshop, 2/20 at 2 pm, \$25-50, and Mike Davis reading 2/20 at 8 pm, \$5-15).

20 WEDNESDAY

Doin' the tunes and talkin' the talk – In this installment of the *Concerts and Conversations* series, renowned cellist David Finckel and pianist Wu Han perform and discuss their work. Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street, 5:30 pm, free. 647-6015

21 THURSDAY

Born to run – Author of *Always Running* and *Hearts and Hands* Luis Rodriguez



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entertainment. At the Baby Chavurah, toddlers up to 2 dress in funny hats or costumes and join in the celebration and songs of hamantaschen. Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores, 12 pm -1:30 pm, free. 861-6932 or www.shaarzahav.org

24 SUNDAY

Dynamic duet – Tenor Abraham Aviles-Scott and pianist Paula Dryer do Schubert, Schumann, Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Community Music Center, 544 Capp Street, 4 pm, \$5-10. 647-6015

26 TUESDAY

Rads – South End Press, publisher of over 200 titles devoted to the politics of social change, celebrates its 25th Anniversary. Among the Southenders reading at the event will be David Barsamian, author of *The Decline and Fall of Public Broadcasting*. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

Instituto Familiar de la Raza board meeting – The nonprofit's annual board meeting is open to all members of the public interested in the Instituto's work. 2919 Mission Street, 6 pm. ADA accessible. 647-4142

27 WEDNESDAY

Yuk, yuk, yukfest for rug rats – Comedy performances by Howard Stone, Stevie Boyd, Connor Hallicutt, John Alston and others will benefit the Creative Arts Charter School Kindergarten. El Rio, 3158 Mission, 8 pm, \$10-20. 282-3325

28 THURSDAY

Allah be read – This Islamic Literature Reading series includes contemporary Muslim writers reading their work and reading from classical works. Tonight's session, lead by poet, essayist and playwright Tehmina Khan, focuses on the *Quran*. Modern Times Books, 888 Valencia, 7:30 pm, free. 282-9246

Free osteoporosis screening clinic with Kiki Powers at Rainbow Grocery 1745 Folsom. Call 863-0620 for times and sign up.

ONGOING THEATER, ARTS AND DANCE AND FILM

Love's Fire and Talk to Me Like Rain and Let Me Listen – The themes of love, passion and betrayal run through this series of short plays by the likes of Eric Bogosian, John Guare and Tony Kushner plus *Talk to Me Like the Rain and Let Me Listen* by Tennessee Williams. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom, February 13-March 3, Thursdays-Sundays at 8 pm, \$15 (2/17 pay what you can). 731-6027

Don't Make Me Look Too Psychotic – Mission resident Bruce Patchman wrote, produced, directed and stars in this one-man play about the woman that done him wrong and how she done it. The show ran

for 58 weeks to sold-out houses and rave reviews before Patchman took a break. He's back. Brannan Place Theater, 50A Brannan Place, through March 23, Thursday-Saturday, 8 pm, \$15-18. 826-1709, TooPsychotic.com

Design for Living – Noel Coward's 1932 play about a frolicsome threesome is given an update by director John Fisher. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street, 1/17 -2/16, Wed.-Sat. 8 pm, Sundays 7 pm, Sunday matinees 1/17, 2/3 & 10 at 3 pm, \$15-22. 861-5079

Mission Indians – The story of three generations of mixed race California Indians told by using the magic and symbolism of native storytelling. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia, Thursday – Sunday, February 14 – March 11, 8 pm, \$9-15. 626-3311

fallen – Choreographer Jess Curtis and Gravity Physical Entertainment perform visual poems of weight and space which include circus techniques, aerial and acrobatic movement. ODC Theater, 3153 17th Street, Thursday – Sunday, February 7-10 and Wednesday – Saturday, February 13-16. 863-9834

The Yoga of Moby Dick – In this solo performance, Mark Kenward draws parallels and connects the dots between his personal life, hatha yoga and Melville's epic novel which are both hilarious and thought-provoking. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, February 14 – March 16, Thursday – Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3 pm, \$9-18. 826-5750

Serial Murderess: a play in three axes – In a one-woman performance, Amanda Moody plays three murderesses in three separate centuries and perhaps answers the question: What does woman want (to kill)? Venue 9, 252 Ninth Street, Thursdays – Saturdays, February 14 – March 30, 8 pm, \$12-15. (Pay what you can on 3/4 at 8 pm and 3/10 at 8 pm.) Be my bloody Valentine party follows the show on 2/14. 289-2000 or www.serial-murderess.com

ONGOING EVENTS, CLASSES AND TOURS

La Sirena Botanica hosts Oba Egun, internationally known author (*Methodology of Yoruba Religion*) and Oriate in the Yoruba religion. Egun will be available for book signings and cowrie shell readings at La Sirena, 1509 Church Street, from February 23 through 28, 10 am to 5:30 pm. 285-0612

The SF SPCA offers several different dog obedience classes throughout the month. Call the Dog Training Division at 554-3509 for details or go to www.sfsPCA.org. Ever wanted to visit Alcatraz at night? Here's your chance. Night tours of the Rock – with special nature and history programs geared to the interests of locals rather than tourists – are now a very happening thing. Revenues from ticket sales support restoration and preservation of the National Park. Tickets are \$18 and are available by calling 705-5555. For more information go to www.nps.gov/alcatraz

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ONGOING DAYS OF THE WEEK

Mondays

Youth from 10-13 years can learn a variety of media, paper mache, sculpture, print-making, batik, puppet, mask, and jewelry-making skills at a workshop from 3:30-5:30 pm. **Precita Eyes Mural Arts**, 2981 24th St., \$8 per session or \$50 for ten-class membership. 285-2287

Monday Night Marsh – Stand up comedy and performance art by both the brightest lights and dimmest bulbs in the field. The Marsh, 1062 Valencia, 8 pm, \$7. 826-5750

Astanga Yoga – Classes by Chalita Photikoe, who teaches the Astanga Primary Series integrating breath, bandhas and movement. Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, 455 Valencia, 6:30 pm, \$40/month. 861-4964

Tuesdays

Are you smarter than Cliff Claven? Try the **Pub Quiz** hosted by Angie. Fun and prizes. Dylan's, 2301 Folsom @ 19th, 8:30. 641-1416

Taichi: Taiyi Swimming Dragon Chuan Form taught by Liping Zhu, student of Taoist Master Yu Anren and a gold medalist in the 1996 International Martial Arts Tournament. Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, 455 Valencia, 6:30 pm, \$40/month/sliding scale. 861-4964

Samba for Activists, taught by Akinyele Sadiq, is designed to bring more energy, culture and joy to demonstrations, meetings and presentations. CELLspace, 2050 Bryant Street, 4 pm, \$5. 648-7562

Free meditation class at the Church of Natural Grace, 972 Valencia, 7:30 pm. 643-8800

Wednesdays

Figure painting for beginning and advanced artists wanting to learn to paint and draw the male and female form. One pose is worked on per class. Precita Eyes Mural Arts, 2981 24th St., 7-9:30 pm, \$8 per session or \$50 for ten-class membership. 285-2287.

Indulge your chess addiction with the all-levels **Chess Club** at 4 pm, or practice

your Scrabble skills at **Scrabble Nights** at 7 pm, all ability levels welcome. Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Avenue, 7 pm, free. 695-5160

Practice your Spanish in an all-levels **Spanish Conversation Group**. Bernal Heights Branch Library, 500 Cortland Ave., 7 pm, free. 695-5160

The International Socialist Organization holds weekly, open meetings at the SF Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, 7-9 pm. 336-5034

SF Bicycle Coalition Volunteer Night - 5-9 pm, in SFBC office, 1095 Market St., Suite 208 (@ 7th). Every Wednesday come to the weekly SFBC Volunteer night to do the things that make our office run, munch on pizza & snacks and enjoy the fine company of other cyclists. We can use your help! For more info contact Michael at 431-BIKEx1 or www.calfee@sfbike.org

Thursdays

Treat kids ages 3-5 to **Preschool Storytime** at the Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett Street, at 10:30 am. 695-5090

Sister Rise Up! – Spoken word, performance, dj, food, music and dancing are all part of this weekly celebration of the voices of women of color (especially those of the Arab and West African Diaspora). All proceeds benefit Arab Women's Solidarity Association and INCITE: Women of Color Against Violence. El Rio, 3158 Mission Street, 9 pm, \$5.

Qi Gong classes taught by Liping Zhu, student of Taoist Master Yu Anren and a gold medallist in the 1996 International Martial Arts Tournament. Quan Yin Healing Arts Center, 455 Valencia, 6:30 pm, \$40/month/sliding scale. 861-4964

Fridays

Gamesters, this is your night. Everything from Scrabble to Cribbage can be played

with the regulars, irregulars and newbies at SF Games in their new location at Mission Grounds Café, 3170 16th Street, 7 pm, free. 820-3200 Ext.105

Learn to ballroom dance at beginning **Ballroom Dance Lessons**, followed by a **Ballroom Dance Party**. Dance contests held the last Friday of every month. Mctronome Ballroom, 1830 17th St., lessons 7:30 pm, dance party 9 pm, \$15 for both, \$9 for the party only. 252-9000

Saturdays

Storytime en Español for the whole family. Afterwards take part in a short craft activity. Mission Branch Library, 300 Bartlett St., 12 noon, free. 695-5090

Found footage, experimental works of genius and the just plain wacky are all part and parcel of the short and feature length films screened at the legendary **Other Cinema**. Artist Television Access, 992 Valencia, 8:30 pm, \$5. 824-3890.

Guided mural tour – See and hear all about 60 murals on a 10 block walk. Meet at the Café Venice on the 24th Street BART Plaza at 11am, \$2-10. 285-2287

Sundays

Terry ("The Lesbian Woody Allen") Baum and Dr. Michael ("The Resident Expert") Goldhaber peruse the news of the day for insight and guffaws with help from the audience in **Operation Infinite News**. Café Du Nord, 2170 Market, 6 pm, \$5. Runs until most of the world's problems have been solved.

Live Flamenco Music and Dance – The flamenco group Arte and Compás performs live at Timos Restaurant, 842 Valencia, 7 & 8:30 pm. 647-0558 or www.timos.com

Another guided mural tour – See and hear all about 50 murals on an 8-block tour. Meet at Precita Eyes Arts and Visitors Center, 2981 24th Street at 11am, \$2-10. 285-2287

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Recycling San Francisco

Recycling collection now includes ALL plastic bottles

By Robert Haley
Department of the Environment

How often have you spilled something on the kitchen floor because you turned a plastic bottle upside down to check the recycling number? And how often have you found a number higher than 2, bringing you to throw the bottle away (and wipe up the floor as well)? Well, spill no more, San Francisco! Thanks to an expansion of recyclables, there's no need to check the number. If it's a bottle, it's recyclable.

You've long been able to return your #1 and #2 bottles for recycling. These are made of the most easily recyclable plastics and have enjoyed a strong market for their resale. But until very recently, the remaining types of bottles - #3 through #7 - have been much harder to recycle. But because Sunset Scavenger and Golden Gate Disposal & Recycling have been working hard to develop markets for other plastics, they will now pick up these plastic bottles to be recycled, rather than sending them out to the landfill.

While pick-up has expanded, the rules you'll need to follow have become

simpler. Only bottles can be collected, and not plastic bags or other types of plastic containers. The key is to "check the neck." If a rigid plastic container has a neck smaller than its base, it can be recycled no matter what number is on the bottom. This includes bottles of all shapes, sizes and colors. We still cannot accept plastic butter tubs, yogurt containers, or other wide-mouth containers due to a lack of recycling markets for these plastic types.

The expansion means you can recycle all kinds of containers you may never have considered. In addition to standard items such as soda bottles and milk jugs, you can also fill your blue bin or "Fantastic Three" blue cart with plastic bottles including those for shampoo, mouthwash, aspirin, laundry detergent, cooking oil, household cleaning supplies and more!

Add these plastic bottles to the glass bottles you've always been able to recycle and get into the habit of giving us all your bottles. Please remove plastic caps, lids, pumps and sprayers (such as from cleaning supplies) — these must still be disposed in the trash. Please empty

containers completely. We especially cannot accept any containers that have hazardous products residue, including automobile and garden products. [For more information on the disposal of hazardous waste, visit our website at www.sfenvironment.com.

For a basic breakdown, this means:

BOTTLES - all plastic and glass bottles, regardless of size, shape, color or number designation. Don't forget to recycle your glass jars too.

CANS - all aluminum and tin/steel cans, including empty metal aerosol and paint cans. Don't forget aluminum foil and pie tins as well.

PAPER - any paper items, including newspapers, junk mail, flattened cardboard, magazines and catalogs, office paper, flattened dry food boxes, paper bags and packaging.

In December we announced that San Francisco's rate of recycling (or

diversion of items from the waste stream) is 46%. A state law passed nearly a decade ago requires all cities and counties to recycle at least 50%. We're close, but we've still got to do all we can to reach that goal and avoid possible fines.

The expansion of recycling programs in San Francisco — including accepting more items and adding organics (yard trimmings and food scraps) composting as part of the three stream recycling program currently being rolled out across the City — is a major reason why we've been able to reach 46%.

We thank you for your current participation and ask you to do all you can by recycling more and make an effort to encourage all your friends and neighbors to try do the same.

Robert Haley is the Special Projects Recycling Coordinator for the Department of the Environment. If you have any questions about plastic bottle recycling or our other recycling and environmental programs, please visit the Department of the Environment's website at www.sfenvironment.com

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<h1>Sweet Home, San Francisco</h1> <p>*(a new ode to the most liberal city in the U.S.A.)</p> <p>By Oliver Chin oliver@immedium.com</p>  	<p>Big mouths keep on spoutin', kickin' me off the median.</p> 	<p>Claimin' to clean up the Bay Area, thinkin' my existence is just a sin, yes.</p> 	<p>Well I heard Mr. Newsom complain about us.</p>  <p>If tough love worked magic for Giuliani, that is good enough 4 me!</p>
<p>Well, I heard Tony Hall put us down.</p>  <p>I prefer that you use the toilet in jail.</p>	<p>Well, I hope Frank Jordan you'll remember, nobody's done nuthin' for us anyhow!</p>  <p>I inherited a mess.</p>	<p>Sweet Home San Francisco, where voters are so blue.</p> <p>We spend \$100 million on them?</p>  <p>But, that's \$10,000 per person...</p> 	<p>Sweet Home San Francisco, Lord, I'm so cold out here too.</p> 
<p>In City Hall they wanna be mayor, boo, boo, boo,</p> 	<p>Election baiting is what they do.</p> 	<p>Now Scapegoating does not bother me,</p> 	<p>Does your conscience bother you? Tell the truth.</p> 

*homage to the tune "Sweet home, Alabama" **

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Silicon Satan



Gavin Newsom, the new guardian of San Francisco's esthetic security

When Supervisor Newsom recently proposed that vagrants be jailed for up to six months, simply for asking for money on median strips, in front of movie theaters, or wherever else they might actually stand a small chance of getting any, many of you no doubt complained that he hates the homeless, or that he is so self-absorbed and cruel that he feels a minor inconvenience to his person—some smelly beggar pestering him for spare change—is an offense so serious as to warrant depriving a fellow human being of his liberty.

Yet it seems unlikely that Mr. Newsom would *hate* the homeless, when, through his consistent support of the Ellis Act and Tenancies in Common, and his determined lack of interest in seeing San Francisco provide affordable housing for its citizens, he has done as much as anyone to ensure that this town will have an abundant population of homeless for years to come.

In fact, his plan to lock them up in county jail for attempting to acquire the means with which to feed themselves shows why he is so well-suited to be San Francisco's next mayor: he clearly has the right priorities. For in these tumultuous times, when less visionary politicians are focused on the threats posed by terrorism, war and economic collapse, Mr. Newsom has chosen instead to devote himself to strengthening our *esthetic* security, to seeing to it that no slobbering, shaking drunk, no shell-shocked, legless Vietnam vet, nor any similarly ugly spectacle shall ever again disrupt our appreciation of this beautiful city and the wonderful lifestyle opportunities it affords.

Some of you, perhaps, will object that his apparent willingness to imprison the poor and destitute, simply because they are ugly and annoying, shows that Supervisor Newsom is a selfish and superficial man. This is, of course, not the case. Rather, it is just that he understands that nothing—not even the right of his fel-

low citizens to free speech and personal liberty—is more important than physical beauty and his own right to the unfettered enjoyment of it.

If you have difficulty comprehending how someone could believe that esthetics should govern even morality, and that the homeless should therefore be *criminalized* for blemishing San Francisco's quaint corners and postcard-perfect vistas, that is not altogether surprising: for the esthetic sensibilities of people like yourselves have doubtless been dulled and coarsened by the constant hard work required to make it through life on your own.

Our handsome young supervisor, on the other hand, having had—thanks to his privileged social status—more than a little help getting to where he is today, has maintained his esthetic capacity fully intact. Thus, he can appreciate that beggars on the streets of San Francisco are as atrociously offensive and out of place and as, say, backtalk from his servants, tradespeople entering through the front door of his Pacific Heights mansion, or skid marks on his gorgeous new wife's designer lingerie.

Of course, it should come as no surprise that Mr. Newsom is one of the few local leaders with the courage to take a tough stand on homelessness, a stand which—much like his tireless advocacy of the interests of real-estate developers and downtown corporations—surely has everything to do with principal and nothing to do with political ambition. But what his new proposal demonstrates above all about San Francisco's Crown Prince is his compassion.

For, while he is clearly quite happy to see the homeless rot in jail, this is only because he feels the pain of every tourist whose snapshot is spoiled by some scene of human misery on our city's streets, and of every business executive embarrassed into parting with a hard-earned quarter.

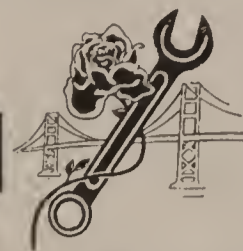
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NEIGHBORHOOD BEAT



Jill Winkelstein

Lobster tales

Killing *My Lobster* continues to claw its way to the top of the comedy world. The Bay Area film and theater production company has created original work for HBO, had films shown on Comedy Central and has been buttered up by accolades from every reviewer in the Northwest. Neighborhood residents may know them from the infamous Dolores Park badminton tournament of July 2000 or their premiere performance at Hank Hyena's now defunct Grasshopper Place in February, but even if you're coming in at the tail end they are guaranteed to amuse.

Guilty as Sin - takes a look at the world of crime (something we do quite a bit of here in the 'hood without the accompanying hilarity). The show - in which no crustaceans are actually killed or injured - includes sketches with time-traveling muggers, office supply kleptomaniacs and the very-current de rigueur *Lord of the Rings* parody. A live 10-piece orchestra led by trumpet dude Ara Anderson and retro special effects with fog machine and lights should make the fun boil over!

Guilty as Sin will play at Brava Theater Fridays through Sundays, February 1-10, at 8 pm. Be prepared to shell out \$15. For more information, call 267-0642 or go to www.killingmylobster.com

Their Fifth Anniversary Show -



Rumi interpreter Coleman Barks

Rumi lives!

Anyone interested in understanding the nature of Islam and the culture of Afghanistan shouldn't miss Coleman Barks' one man show at Brava Theater as he interprets the works of the 13th Century Afghani mystic and poet known as Rumi. The author of over 70,000 verses of poetry, Rumi, while deeply spiritual, was opposed to fundamentalism. "Rumi's branch of Islam is the cure for Talibanism. It's the exact opposite of fundamental zealotry. It is the part that dances in the streets and embraces everyone. Its followers live in the moment," says Barks.

Barks, considered the leading scholar and interpreter of Rumi, has published four books of his own poetry and fifteen

volumes of translations of Rumi, most recently *The Soul of Rumi* (2001). The next edition of the *Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces* will include Barks' Rumi translations.

Barks will be accompanied by eclectic world musician and sacred music composer Jai Uttal. (Uttal's Pagan Love Band's new CD, *Mondo Rama*, will be released this month.) Jo Krieter and Flyaway Productions open each evening by performing *The Economics of Place*, an aerial dance piece meditation on urban displacement.

There will be two shows at the Brava Theater, 2789 24th Street, at 8 pm (tickets \$30) on February 15 and 16, and a special matinee reading and conversation with the audience at 1 pm on February 16 (tickets \$8). To order tickets by phone, call 392-4400 or go to www.brava.org.

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Black Indie Fest

On February 1-3 at 7:30 pm, Artists' Television Access hosts a mostly- documentary Black Independent Film Festival. The scheduled films are:

February 1: *Fillmore*- a documentary on the SF neighborhood; *Birth of the Hip-Hop Dynasty* - a martial arts urban fantasy; February 2: *Roll* - a 3- minute documentary on the first black competitive

roller skater; *The Wedding* - a short fictional film; *Ricco* - a feature-length thriller about police brutality; February 3: *Life Itself* - a documentary on disabled artists; *Patience and Shuffle the Cards*- a documentary on James Baldwin; and *Alfonia* - a documentary on the funk composer/performer.

ATA is at 992 Valencia. Admission is \$5 per evening. Call 824-3890 for further information.

listeners are needed for a few nighttime hours each month to provide telephone emotional support and crisis counseling to those with concerns about HIV or Hepatitis C. A training class starts February 21. Call 984-1902 day or night.

The Community Bridges Beacon provides year-round opportunities to families and youth through programs in arts, educational, career development, leadership and health. The CBB after-school program needs academic tutors to provide weekly (Monday-Thursday 4-6 pm) homework help to middle school students. No special skills are necessary. An orientation/training meeting will be held on February 15 at 4 pm. Call Cindy at 415-626-5222 x 33.

W.O.M.A.N. Inc. provides a crisis line, individual and group counseling, legal assistance and a wide variety of other services to battered women. They are currently looking for volunteers to staff their 24-hour crisis line. Bicultural women of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to volunteer. The next training session will be held in February. For more information, call 864-4777.

adjusted gross income is under \$100,000. For more information, go to www.ftb.ca.gov to get FTB Publication 802 or download Form 3504.

The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) is now accepting applications for the Spring 2002 Gardening and Composting Education Training Program. The program gives participants the skills to become community educators who teach the joys and benefits of composting and environmentally safe gardening to communities throughout San Francisco. The hands-on course covers Biointensive Gardening, Plant Propagation, Pruning, Gardening with Natives and Integrated Pest Management. Courses are held Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm February 20 to May 22. There is also a fifty-hour volunteer commitment that allows participants to design their own projects. A \$50 donation to defray that cost of materials is encouraged but not mandatory. For more information, call SLUG's education department at 285-7584. The deadline for application is February 13.

GIVING

The Arthritis Foundation wants your old clunker of a car. They will pick up the heap and, through some undisclosed magic, convert it into research dollars. If you've lost the pink slip to the rusty death machine they'll even provide a replacement one, and it's all tax deductible. For more information on the "Auto Round Up," call 1-800-464-6240.

The Shanti Foundation provides volunteer-based emotional support and practical assistance for people with life threatening diseases such as cancer and AIDS. They'll take your car, RV or boat and, like the Arthritis Foundation, will turn it into dollars to support their programs in Northern California. The Shanti folks will provide free towing and the vehicle doesn't have to be running or have a smog certificate. Call 1-866-742-6841.

The AIDS/HIV Nightline, the only service of its kind in the country, is looking for some volunteer help in answering the 10,000 calls they get every year. Good

Getting

Starbucks Coffee is offering \$300,000 in grants to local nonprofit organizations with programs, services or projects designed to build better futures for youth and families in the Bay Area. This is the second year of Starbucks' Bay Area Grants for Giving Program. Four grants of \$50,000 and four grants of \$25,000 will be awarded. Last year the program received over 1,200 requests for funding. Letters of intent are due by 5 pm February 8. Application information can be obtained at any Starbucks at www.starbucks.com or www.ktvu.com or by calling 1-866-535-GIVE

The State Franchise Tax Board wants California taxpayers to know about a \$500 tax credit for qualified caregivers. The non-refundable credit is available for the qualifying individual - the one who needs the care - with long-term care needs lasting longer than 180 consecutive days. The qualifying individual includes the taxpayer, spouse or dependent whose

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La Sal de la Tierra/Salt of The Earth

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Sesión Matinal/Matinee Session: 10:00am. Admisión: \$3.00

Sesión Nocturna/Evening Session: 7:00pm. Admisión: \$3.00

Guest speaker: Joe Trigueros. "Labor Struggles in Today's Economy"

Mr. Trigueros belongs to the Executive Board of Painters Union Local #4 and to Latin Labor Council for Latin American Advancement.



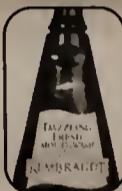
This is one of the most controversial films ever made and was created in a small New Mexico mining town. This film reminded us back in 1954 that the struggle for freedom and human dignity was not over yet. When it was released in 1954 almost every theater nationwide boycotted its exhibition because it was made by a blacklisted Hollywood group. This is the story of a mining community in New Mexico to achieve better working and living conditions.



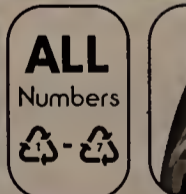
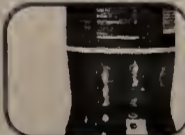
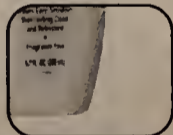
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The MCCLA is supported by the SF Art Commission, the California Arts Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Milagro Foundation, the Bill Graham Foundation and the Zellerbach Family Fund, and other private and individual contributors. Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts was established in 1977 by artists and community activists with a shared vision to promote, preserve and develop the cultural arts that reflect the living tradition and experiences of the Chicano, Central & South American, and Caribbean people

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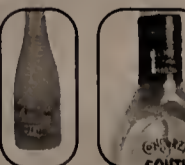
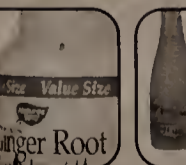
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Health Matters



Richard Pitt

Fish: should we be eating it?

An article in the November-December 2001 issue of *Mother Jones* has investigated the growth of fish farms in North America, especially in the Pacific Northwest of Canada, about 250 miles north of Vancouver. In an industry that had traditionally relied on wild salmon runs, the farms initially looked attractive in bringing new jobs as the wild salmon diminished. However, the development of the farms has brought its own economic, ecological and health problems, which are causing concern to many people.

As the industry grew, it began to have a great impact on local ecology and affected other fish and mammals in the area. The farmed fish, mostly Atlantic salmon, escaped and prospered, competing with wild salmon and other wild species for food and habitat.

To rid the farmed fish of sea lice, farmers have given them a strong antiparasitic drug, but this disease has spread into the wild fish population along with other diseases that have become antibiotic resistant. Excess fish feed, full of antibiotics, and huge amounts of fish feces have contaminated the local areas around the farms.

Similar problems occurred in Norway which, because of dwindling numbers of wild fish, began farming Atlantic salmon in the 60s and 70s. In the 1980s, Norway began to strengthen its environmental regulations, and some of the companies moved to Canada where regulations are not so stringent. Today fish farming is a huge business, with governments and companies seeking to expand new megafarms in Canada, Chile and other countries. Mergers and vertical integration of the industry, allowing companies to control all aspects of the business from the farm to the store, have lowered the price of farmed fish to less than half the price of wild salmon. That is why

Cost Co can offer fish at the prices it does.

To quote from one article: "In 2000, fish farmers raised 860,000 metric tons of Atlantic salmon – more than 1 metric ton for every wild salmon caught in the North Atlantic...When you've got Chilean Filets hitting the Port of Miami at \$2 a pound, raised by workers making \$1.50 a day, that's when the WTO hits home."

Concerned that the wild salmon will be increasingly affected by farmed fish diseases, environmentalists now recommend solid-wall pens to eliminate problems caused by escaping fish. In the 1990s, Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) affected many fish in farms in Scotland and New Brunswick; in 1998, 1.2 million salmon were slaughtered in New Brunswick to control an ISA outbreak.

This kind of disease outbreak is inevitable when any organism is raised in such dense concentrations. So, what can we do about it? Eat only wild fish. Not only does this support the wild fish industry, it is also better for you. There are no antibiotics in the fish, they are not artificially dyed pink like the farmed fish, and they are higher in omega-3 fatty acids. Like any meat you consume, what you eat is also what they eat.

The issue with eating fish is much bigger than this. Due to deposits of heavy metals in the sea, certain fish have such high mercury levels that they are potentially dangerous to eat, especially for pregnant women. Tuna is one of these fish, and other fish that are found deep in the sea have the same problem.

So, although fish can be a great source of protein and fatty acids, we now have to be much more selective of what we eat. This is yet another challenge to our health in the world in which we live.

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Audio books come in handy in all kinds of ways. They're great for car trips or commuting, when trying to read a regular book could get you in big trouble! They give you something interesting to occupy your mind while running or doing other kinds of exercise. They can help make the most boring tasks interesting — I have a friend who listens to audio books when he vacuums!

Come on in and see what's available!

Special Programs at the Mission Library For All Ages:

El Espantapajaros — "The Scarecrow" — Don't miss this funny storyteller on Saturday, February 2 at 12:00 pm.

Momo Casablanca — An awe-inspiring mime on Thursday, February 7 at 4:00 pm.

For Ages 5 & Up:

Mexican Codices and Bookmaking Workshop presented by the Mexican Museum on Sunday, February 10 at 1:00 pm.

There are also Children's storytimes in English and Spanish on Thursday and Saturday mornings. Call 415-695-5090 for more information.

See you at the Library!

The Library Lady

You can send a question directly to *Library Lady*, c/o *The New Mission News*, 3288 21st Street, Box 202, San Francisco, CA 94110, or feel free to email her at Librarylady@sfppl.org

Pet of the month



I'm Chaco, a four-year-old black Labrador Retriever mix. I'm a sweet, loving guy who bonds closely with the people in my life. I enjoy cuddles, ball games, learning and hiking. I love to run and play-and boy, do I love to eat! I not only enjoy the company of people, I'm also quite fond of dogs and would do well in a home with another dog.

As a big fan of dog play, I can tell you that it's important for dogs to romp and hang out with canine pals. We're social animals, remember. Regular dog play helps us build confidence, burns off pent-up energy and provides an outlet for our strong instinct to socialize with one another. Not to mention that it's just plain fun!

Playing with other dogs helps us hone our canine social skills. We learn the complex body language and "dog

talk" that guide appropriate canine interactions. We actually teach one another how to play without going over the top. My teachers here at the San Francisco SPCA tell me that I'm quite clever and that I catch on quickly to the fun training games we play. I'm a bundle of love and affection, and I'm sure to be the best friend you could ever have.

Mention the New Mission News when you adopt me and get a special Pet of the Month package: a month's supply of food, a bag of toys and chews, a dog bowl and a private consultation with a dog behaviorist.

If you are interested in adopting me, come visit me at *The San Francisco SPCA*, 2500-16th Street, S F, CA 94103. 415-554-3000. www.sfspca.org

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Sonny Smith

Steppin' out



The Hallflowers

You call this progress?

They're building a mall from PacBell Park all the way to Candlestick. That's the idea anyway. It's another grand plan to renovate Third Street and Bayview-Hunters Point as well as San Francisco's dormant, almost dead, port. Catellis slipped the Port two million to get a bridge built over Islais Creek, thus getting cargo trucks onto Pier 80 and clearing Third Street for a light rail system.

The bridge will "supposedly" take traffic off Third and put it onto parallel Illinois Street, thus making the necessary room on Third Street. Living units for 10,000 people are apparently to be built along Third, as well as malls and the like.

Go down there now and you'll see men in orange at all hours of the night, jack-hammering up the street and exposing old railroad tracks which are soon to be re-used. PG & E started building the bridge, but they cracked a sewage line underneath the water creating a flood of waste and a hazard to the heron spawning territory as well as to the habitat of seals, egrets and a flurry of other creatures. Not to mention they screwed up Dave Eriksson's garden projects.

But wait: there's more. The Muwekma Ohlone Indians have just begun to gather enough authentic tribesmen to file a reclaim on their original land. And where would you guess their original land is? Right where the City wants to build a bridge. In addition, Cyclone Warehouse, habitat for many a great band as well as artists and craftsmen, will be horribly affected by this big project. Their quaint dead-end street will

be made wider and turned into a thoroughfare for cargo trucks getting on to Pier 80.

To put it bluntly—we've got PG & E, PacBell, Willie Brown's Government and the Port Authority on one team and a very small, small group of Indians, artists and craftsmen on the other. The one team represents PROGRESS, of course, and the other team represents, well... PEOPLE.

Now why do you care about any of this? Because you love the Hall Flowers, that's why. You love the most elegant, classy band to inhabit our fair local rock world. And of course, as you know, the Hall Flowers are synonymous with the Cyclone Warehouse which, of course, sits adjacent to Islais Creek and the proposed bridge at perhaps the most strategic battle point. PROGRESS vs. PEOPLE. What providence! What archetypellness! What symbolic absence of irony!

On the one hand, we have elegance and class: the Hall Flowers- three ladies singing and one gentlemen playing guitar, symbolizing family (front women are mother and two daughters), and on the other hand we have the eradication of elegance, we have no-class progress jive-turkey bird shit. The bridge over Islais Creek does not symbolize family, it represents currency!

You love the Hall Flowers because they're about harmony and you like what Louis Claude de Saint Martin, the 18th century composer/theosopher said about harmony: "It makes man link his inner self with the musical powers of the air, and the powers of the air with his inner self. Thus by this performance he not only lifts his own being to the divine region, but also makes the divine region descend into his whole being."

And, of course, the Progress team has nothing to do with harmony. The building of malls, the laying of concrete, the buzz of jackhammers, the zeal and greed of real estate developers, the midnight deals of Willie Brown- these have nothing to do with harmony. In fact, these are vile and spurious acts, out of tune with the divine region.

In this great archetypal battle it is only the Hall Flowers, with their class, grace and elegance, who through their musical care can unite the souls of us down here with the grace of God and the kingdom of heaven or paradise or whatever you want to call it! Amen! See them play at the Bottom of the Hill on February 5th with Storm Acoustic, El Fey and Malicious Princess.

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“Give me time”

If you love me
then give me time
not only to find the things within you,
but to find the things within me
Give me time to strive
And thrive in our divergences
Time to intensify our passionate bonds
for the world is already envy with jealousy,
maybe in time,
I might just come to love you
more than life and death itself

Lydia K. Wong

We are what?

We are nothing to the world
yet everything to ourselves
we are the ashes and grains of sand
yet we are giants among ourselves
We are minuscule
yet we are all-important & powerful
harsh & inflexible
aesthetic & insensitive
we are the human race!

Lydia K. Wong

A senseless death 9-11

Millions of screams and whisperings
a gripping fear running through my veins,
seemingly untrue broadcast images,
shattered the essence of my life-being;
Speechless and dazed
I have no words to say, to say
for there's only utter silence
I have no pain to cry out to
but only silent sufferings to resolve
agony & torment comes to heart
precious moments undeniably gone
I will endure the burden of death

because I have admired you
through my eyes
no shameful deeds to wait about
let the grieving and the healing begin
so, my senses and sanity will return to me!

Lydia K. Wong

Predators

Death is a predator
with gold teeth
and a mouthful
of balloons smiling
at me from a doorway.
Sixteenth and Mission

I stumble in the damp
Night, a moving violation
looking for a crime
to commit, skirting
the crowds and commuters.
Take a hit in a doorway
then move on.

Hookers swing their purses
leering at me, reading my
pockets in the spectral glow
trying for a quick lick
something to pay for
the next fix, keeping time
in a slow magnetic
dance with death.

William M. Bowden

Century Verse

Live for today, forget tomorrow,
life's not just, and sorrow's hollow;
any way that you can do it,
do it that way or you will rue it.

Edward Mycue

Century Reverse

Devils in the details are playgrou
hands of the idle masters
manipulating daydreams in emulation.
For idle are the ways of contemplation

Edward Mycue

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LEROY MOORE JR.
& SAMUEL IRVING:
THE OTHER BROTHER:
DISABLED EBONICS TOUR

Tuesday, February 12th at 7:30 pm
JUDY GRAHN, ROBERT HSIANG
& JEFFREY BLANKFORT:
THE WHOLE WORLD'S WATCHING

Wednesday, February 13th at 7:30 pm
JESS WELLS: LOVE SHOOK MY HEART 2

Thursday, February 14th at 7:30
JOHN STAUBER:
TRUST US, WE'RE EXPERTS!

Tuesday, February 19th at 7:30 pm
LUIS RODRÍGUEZ:
HEARTS AND HANDS

Wednesday, February 20th at 7:30 pm
9/11 READING GROUP:
RIGHTEOUS VICTIMS

Friday, February 22nd at 7:30 pm
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